

RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1948



Arthur Lucas

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Brackley.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1948 of the Medical Officer of Health and also that of the Senior Sanitary Inspector for your area.

The vital statistics summarised on page 3 are generally satisfactory and compare with those of England and Wales in a favourable manner. The year 1948 has shown some improvement in the water supplies and provision of sewage systems in several villages and should be completed within a reasonable time now.

The building of new houses has been going ahead, but not as rapidly as one would wish, and the rehousing of overcrowded families and those in defective houses remains a major problem.

There have been no major epidemics in the past year, the infectious diseases statistics agree generally with those of the rest of the country.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is going ahead but one would like to see a much higher percentage of the infant population immunised.

I wish to thank personally the Sanitary Inspectors and their staff and also all Committees I have been in contact with, as they have been most helpful since I took up my duties in February, 1949.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

*Public Health Dept.,
Rural District Council Offices,
Brackley Lodge,
Brackley, Northants.*

July, 1949.

Brackley Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council :

F. T. KIELDSEN, ESQ., J.P., C.C.

Vice Chairman of the Council :

J. N. GIBBARD, ESQ.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

MESSRS. J. N. GIBBARD (Chairman), E. H. BARKER, H. S. WATSON, S. F. TILLEY, R. BARRETT, L. WATSON, L. S. PROSSER, LT.-COL. V. G. TOLER-AYLWARD (Vice-Chairman), REV. H. J. BOYD, LT. GEN. SIR B. N. SERGISON-BROOKE, MRS. M. E. JOHNSON, MRS. L. ACRID.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Public Health Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health,

DAVID J. JONES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
(Resigned 31/10/48.)

Also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health in the Brackley Borough.

Medical Officer of Health in the Daventry Borough.

Medical Officer of Health in the Daventry R.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health in the Brixworth R.D.C.

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Northants County Council.

Assistant County School Medical Officer, Northants County Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

W. E. TURBITT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector :

F. MAYHEW, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors :

S. J. SHEPPARD (away on prolonged sick leave.)

P. E. ADAMS (Temporary).

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1948.

Area in acres	58,132
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,320
Number of separate dwellings, occupied, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,982
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	£31,599
Product of a penny rate at 31st March, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	£109/17/3

				<i>Rate</i>			
Live Births				<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>(per 1,000 population)</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	189	93	96	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	16	6	10	
				<hr/>			21.90
				205	99	106	

Stillbirths							
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	0	2	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1	0	
				<hr/>			0.32
				3	1	2	

							<i>(per 1,000 population)</i>
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	...	97	53	44	10.40

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil.</i>
Other puerperal causes...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil.</i>

Infant Mortality—per 1,000 live births.

Legitimate	...	...	...	6	2	4	29.20
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0	<hr/>
				<hr/>			
Total	...	...	...	6	2	4	29.20
							<hr/>

Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	14
„	„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil.</i>
„	„ Measles	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil.</i>
„	„ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil.</i>

The registered causes of death were :—

<i>Causes of Death</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
7.	Tuberculosis—Other Forms	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis : Polio Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	6	5	11
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
18.	Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	10	5	15
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	13	11	24
20.	Other Diseases of Circulation	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
27.	Other digestive Disorders	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
29.	Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
32.	Congenital Malformation : Birth Injury : Infantile Disorders	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
36.	All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
						53	44	97

Area (in acres 58,132). The district is almost entirely rural in character, agriculture and dairy farming being the main industries.

Population. The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid year 1948 to be 9,320, an increase of 170 over 1947. The natural increase in population, the excess of births over deaths, was 108.

Deaths. The total number of deaths assigned to the district for the year was 97, compared with 149 in 1947. The crude death rate was 10.4 compared with 16.28 the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with previous years :

Death Rate 1943-48

Year	Brackley				North-ampton-shire	England and Wales
	Total	M.	F.	Recorded Rate		
1943	164	82	82	17.3	12.29	12.10
1944	195	119	76	20.5	12.65	11.60
1945	175	91	78	19.2	12.34	11.40
1946	100	46	54	11.13	12.00	11.50
1947	149	85	64	16.28	12.43	12.00
1948	97	53	44	10.4	*	10.8

Births. The number of live births assigned to this district was 205, compared with 187 in 1947. The birth rate for 1948 of 21.9, is more by 1.46 per thousand than the rate for 1947 and is higher than the rate of 17.9 for England and Wales.

Birth Rate 1943-48

			1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Brackley	...	...	17.3	20.5	19.2	22.5	20.44	21.9
Northamptonshire	...		17.91	20.07	18.98	19.17	20.42	*
England and Wales			16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9

Still-Births. The number of still-births during 1948 was 3 (2 legitimate females, 1 illegitimate male). The still-birth rate for the past 5 years is given in the following table (per 1,000 live and still births) :

Still-Birth Rate 1943-48

			1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Brackley	...	...	12.05	10.15	22.36	19.41	15.79	14.42

Illegitimate Births. There were 16 illegitimate births assigned to the district in 1948 (6 males, 10 females) 4 more than in 1947.

Maternal Mortality. It is pleasing to note that again in 1948 there were no deaths from Puerperal Causes, or conditions allied to childbirth.

Infant Mortality. The number of infants who died before reaching their first birthday was 6. The causes of death are set out in the following table :

Causes of Death of Children under one year.

Cause of Death	Age in Weeks					Total
	—1	—2	—3	—4	5—52	
1. Congenital Malformations	1					1
2. Diseases of early infancy :						
(a) Congenital Debility		3				3
(b) Premature Birth ...	2					2
(c) Injury at Birth ...						
(d) Atelectasis ...						
(e) Others ...						
3. Diseases of Respiratory System ...						
4. Diseases of Digestive System						
5. Diseases of Nervous System						
6. Tuberculous Diseases ...						
7. Infectious Diseases ...						
8. Syphilis ...						
9. Overlaying ...						
10. Other Violence ...						
11. All Other Causes ...						
Total ...	3	3	—	—	—	6

INFANT MORTALITY RATE, 1943-48

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births.

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Brackley ...	48.9	35.9	17.14	44.5	42.78	29.27
Northamptonshire ...	40.4	38.00	39.17	36.86	35.07	*
England and Wales	49.00	46.00	46.00	43.00	41.00	34.00

* Not available.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the bacteriological examination of milk and water samples and other specimens submitted from this district. This service became entirely free following a Ministry circular in March, 1947.

(b) DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

A supply of antitoxin is maintained at the Council Offices in accordance with the provisions of the Diphtheria Antitoxin (Outside London) Order, 1910, and is available free of charge to all Medical Practitioners for use in cases of emergency in the rural district.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Under an agreement between the County Council and the County Nursing Association, the services of a nurse may be obtained for the treatment of patients suffering from puerperal fever, puerperal pyrexia, ophthalmia neonatorum, whooping cough, diarrhoea in young children, poliomyelitis, measles, and cerebro spinal fever, but owing to the acute shortage of nursing staff, it would almost be impossible to fulfil this agreement.

(d) CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Infant Welfare—Brackley.	}	Organised by County Council.
Orthopædic Clinic.		
Vision Clinic.		
Ante-Natal Clinic, Middleton Cheney.		

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISTRICT.

STATEMENT OF POSITION AS TO SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES, Etc.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>		<i>Schemes approved in principle by Ministry of Health</i>	
	<i>Sew- ered</i>	<i>Unse- wered</i>	<i>Cost £</i>	<i>Stage</i>
Aston le Walls	36	14	4599	3
Aynho	94	24		
Boddington	103	38	7578 Upper B. 6327 Lower B.	3 3
Chacombe	86	10	16820	1
Chipping Warden	85	17	8080	1
Croughton	105	22	17900	1
Culworth	75	56	6850	1
Edgcote (Private Estate) ...	—	18		
Evenley	64	43	3618	3
Eydon	85	34		
Farthinghoe	63	31	9502	2
Greatworth	99	26	7943	3
Helmdon	105	66	22685	1
Hinton in the Hedges ...	18	11	5016	3
Kings Sutton	293	45	11070	1 Commenced
Marston St. Lawrence ...	23	21		
Middleton Cheney	312	47	3829 Overthorpe 11181 Lower M/C 11148 Upper M/C	1 Completed 2 2
Moreton Pinkney	97	11	18250	1
Newbottle	69	35		
Radstone	16	11	2418	3
Sulgrave	61	48	11537	2
Syresham	106	84	1747 Crowfield 10900 Village	3 2
Thenford	14	11		
Thorpe Mandeville	31	17		
Warkworth	6	6		
Whitfield	24	21	5636	2
Totals	2070	767	£204,634	

Water Supply—As in previous years, the sampling of various water supplies in the district indicates that much of the water is bad.

The various parishes or districts where sampling took place, the number of samples taken from each parish or district, and the results of the samples are as follows, viz :—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Aynho	11	6	5
Boddington	5	2	3
Chipping Warden	1	1	—
Croughton	1	1	—
Culworth	5	1	4*
Evenley	11	6	5
Eydon	3	2	1
Farthinghoe	1	—	1
Greatworth	2	1	1
Helmdon	7	2	5
Kings Sutton	5	3†	2
Marston St. Lawrence	2	1	1
Middleton Cheney	3	1	2
Moreton Pinkney	2	1	1
Sulgrave	1	—	1
Syresham	1	—	1
Thenford	1	—	1
Thorpe Mandeville	1	—	1
	63	28 or 44.4%	35 or 55.6%

* Includes 1 sample chemically analysed.

† Includes 2 samples chemically analysed.

Summary of Result of Water Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination.

During the past eight years much attention has been paid to the bacteriological examination of the water supplies in the various parishes, both public and private, and the following table gives a summary of these examinations.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken and examined</i>	<i>Result</i>	
		<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
1940	0	0	0
1941	15	2	13
1942	8	1	7
1943	64	20	44
1944	78	29	49
1945	63	37	26
1946	70	25	45
1947	58	16	42
1948	63	28	35
TOTALS	419	158	261
			62.29% Unsatisfactory

Public Cleansing. A systematic collection of house refuse is in operation throughout the district.

The Parishes are served as follows :—

<i>Village</i>	<i>Date of Collection</i>	<i>Refuse Tip</i>
King's Sutton	Alternate Fridays	All refuse is now taken to Moreton Pinkney, Greatworth or Charlton.
Aynho	Alternate Fridays	
Middleton Cheney	Alternate Thursdays	
Chacombe	Second Tuesday in each month	
Chipping Warden	First Wednesday in each month	
Aston-le-Walls	First Monday in each month	
Boddingtons	First Monday in each month	
Eydon	Second Monday in each month	
Thenford	First Tuesday in each month	
Thorpe Mandeville	First Wednesday in each month	
Marston St. Lawrence	Second Tuesday in each month	
Culworth	First Wednesday in each month	
Moreton Pinkney	Second Monday in each month	
Greatworth	First Monday in each month	
Sulgrave	Second Wednesday in each month	
Helmdon	Second Wednesday in each month	
Radstone	Third Wednesday in each month	
Charlton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Croughton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	First Tuesday in each month	
Evenley	First Tuesday in each month	
Whitfield	Third Wednesday in each month	
Syresham	Third Wednesday in each month	
Farthinghoe	Second Tuesday in each month	

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. A total of 145 complaints were received during the year and promptly investigated. 63 were made in writing ; 27 by telephone ; and 55 verbally.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 2675 inspections.

Preliminary Notices numbering 222 and 34 Statutory Notices were served. Of the number of Statutory Notices 28 were complied with during the year and it is expected that the outstanding notices will be complied with in due course.

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Visits to Premises during 1948.

Inspections—Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	464
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Inspections—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	431
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	969
Works completed without Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
Food Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Notices complied with (including food premises)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	185

Visits to :—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	262
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	213
Public Houses...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Schools...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Urinals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Drains partly re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rat infested premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the Year 1948.

Details of work completed.	Total
Roof renewed or repaired	71
Chimney Stack repaired or renewed	15
Gutters repaired or renewed	12
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	2
External walls repaired or re-pointed	19
Dampness abated :—	
i. repairs to roof	71
ii. repairs to external walls	5
iii. repairs to gutters or rainwater pipes	32
iv. waterproofing of internal walls	10
v. Damp proof course provided	1
Permanent ventilation provided	—
Wall plaster repaired...	71
Ceiling plaster repaired	70
Walls cleaned or redecorated	86
Ceilings cleaned or redecorated	73
Windows repaired or renewed	44
Sashcord provided	—
Doors repaired or renewed	17
Floors repaired or renewed	41
Stairs repaired or renewed	12
Window and door sills repaired	—
Plinth provided	3
Through ventilation provided	1
Yard or passage surface paved	16
Firegrates or ranges repaired or renewed	11
New sink provided	27
New waste pipe to sink provided	16
Separate water supply provided	2
Sub-floor ventilation provided	—
Washing copper repaired or renewed	3
Wash-house rebuilt or repaired	2
Ventilated food store provided	—
Food store repaired or improved	5
Verminous rooms disinfested	12

Miscellaneous Housing items	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Staircase handrails provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wells repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Washing Accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Sanitary Conveniences.

Elsan Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Separate accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
New W.C.'s provided complete	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
New W.C. basin provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
W.C. cistern repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
W.C. compartment repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Closets limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New pails to closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Privies Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
New Urinals built	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Baths provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Lavatory Basins	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

Drainage.

Drains examined	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
Premises drained to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Soil pipe or vent-shaft repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspection chamber provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Fresh air inlet fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Vent-shaft provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Miscellaneous drainage items	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New septic tanks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

Nuisances.

Offensive accumulation removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Nuisance from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Smoke nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Shops and Offices—No action was taken during the year.

Camping Sites—No camps were established in the district during the year.

Smoke Abatement—No action was necessary.

Swimming Baths and Pools—There are no baths or pools subject to inspection in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs—No action was necessary.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

During the year 11 Council Houses were completed and allocated, in most cases to families inadequately housed in low standard cottages, some of them being subject to Demolition Orders.

Despite the erection of 45 Council Houses between the years 1946-1948, many families are still occupying cottages condemned previous to the last war and even for these worn-out shelters there is usually an unfortunate family ready to take over occupation when one becomes empty.

The following statistics reveal the present housing situation in this district at the end of 1948.

The number of applicants for Council Houses (after revision of the waiting list) is 546.

There were 92 condemned houses occupied under licence.

The number of families living in temporary housing accommodation is 135.

The above figures indicate the urgent necessity for the erection of many more new houses, especially when one recollects that the result of the Rural Housing Survey shewed that no less than 34.3% of houses require partial reconstruction or demolition and 42.6% reconditioning. Gradual deterioration of existing houses should be prevented as far as is reasonably practicable.

Time may be opportune for consideration as to the advisability for financial grants being made towards reconditioning and modernising cottages where it is thought to be worth while. Usually the small rents derived from such property make it financially impossible for the owner to improve and modernise.

The following dwelling houses have been reconditioned by the approval of the Council on submission of plans.

The reconditioning has been carried out by repair, alteration, structural additions and installation of sanitary fitments.

Cottage, High Street, Eydon—Owned by Miss Handley—converted into two separate dwellings.

Two Cottages, known as Howard's Cottages, High Street, Eydon—Conversion.

Cottage, owned by Mrs. Hurt, Station Road, Kings Sutton—Conversion.

The Manor, Moreton Pinkney—Conversion to four separate dwellings.

The Stables, The Manor, Moreton Pinkney—Conversion to three separate dwellings.

53, Aynho—Conversion of part of premises to separate dwelling.

36, Aynho—Reconditioned and additional structure.

Yew Tree Cottage, Richmond Street, Kings Sutton—New addition.

Manor Farm Cottage, Appletree Road, Chipping Warden—Alterations and additions.

Stables, Astrop Park—Conversion to flat.

Farmhouse, Brook Street, Moreton Pinkney—Alterations and additions.

Post Office, Aston-le-Walls—Alteration and conversion.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	895
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,941
2 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	464
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	541
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
4	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	109

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	198
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) **Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—						
	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	—
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...					—

(b) **Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936 :—**

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...			109
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—					
	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	28
	(b) By local Authority in default of owners	...				—

(c) **Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	5

(d) **Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...			—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...			—

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART 4—OVERCROWDING.

Present position unknown.

Statement of Housing Progress
(i.e., provision of new houses)

	<i>Pre-war and Wartime Housing Position</i>						<i>Post-war Housing Programme</i>					Total No. of Houses owned by Council
	Housing Act 1920.	Housing Act 1924.	Housing Act 1930.	Housing Acts 1935 and 1936.	War-time Agr. Houses.	TOTAL.	Undeveloped Sites.	Developed Sites Houses not begun.	Houses on Tenders Apprd.	Houses under Construction.	Houses Completed.	
Aston le Walls				16		16						16
Aynho ...						—					6	6
Boddington ...		4			2	6	14					6
Chacombe ...			3	14		17					2	19
Chipping Warden						—			13	13	8	8
Croughton ...	6		2			8	12					8
Culworth ...	6		5	10		21	14					21
Edgcote ...						—						—
Evenley ...						—			8	8	3	3
Eydon ...	8			4		12	8					12
Farthinghoe ...	2		6		2	10	4					10
Greatworth ...	8		8			16	4					16
Helmdon ...	8			8		16					10	26
Hinton in the Hedges ...						—	6					—
Kings Sutton	18		8	40		66	24	26	16	16		66
Marston St. Lawrence	6					6			6		6	12
Middleton Cheney	20		22	30		72		38	16	16	10	82
Moreton Pinkney				8		8	8					8
Newbottle ...	6		12			18	12					18
Radstone ...						—						—
Sulgrave ...	8		6			14	6					14
Syresham ...	10		4	24		38		30	10	8		38
Thenford ...						—						—
Thorpe Mandeville	6					6					6	12
Warkworth ...						—						—
Whitfield ...						—	6					—
	112	4	76	154	4	350	118	94	63	61	51	401

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises Generally. During the past few years there has been a great increase in the incidence of food poisoning throughout the country which has been the cause of a number of deaths and of much unnecessary illness.

Much of this food poisoning can be prevented and the majority of cases are due to contamination of foodstuffs by persons handling them.

The proper maintenance and cleanliness of premises used for the storage, preparation and handling of food is one of the fundamental principles of food hygiene. There is little chance of practising clean handling methods in premises which are dirty. If premises are to be kept clean it is essential they should be kept in a good state of repair. Broken floors, defective plasterwork of walls and similar defects become the harbouring places for dirt. Good floors and walls can be easily cleaned.

All vermin such as rats, mice, flies, cockroaches, etc., discovered in food premises ought to be destroyed as they are capable of seriously contaminating unprotected foodstuffs. Wherever practicable all foodstuffs should be protected against possible contamination by suitable coverings or cases.

Eating and drinking utensils in cafés, public houses, etc., should be thoroughly washed in hot water and the water and drying cloths changed as frequently as necessary. Cups or glasses badly chipped around the drinking rim carry germs and should be replaced when in such a condition.

All persons engaged in the preparation and handling of food should be scrupulously clean in every way. Hands, fingernails and clothing should always be clean. It is vitally necessary to always wash hands after visiting the toilet. Persons suffering from infectious diseases, diarrhoea, sore throats, boils, styes or sores on hands should not continue to handle food or drink but consult a doctor.

Visits have been made during 1948 and early 1949 to all places in the district where food (other than milk) is stored, prepared or sold for human consumption.

Amongst the more well known food places such as the village provision stores, butchers, bakers, etc., visits were also made to public houses (beer being "food" within the meaning of the Act), a youth hostel and a lone cottage where meals are served to anglers who fish the adjacent reservoir, whilst several mobile vans selling wet and dry fish

and ice cream were inspected. Some of these itinerant food vendors originate from districts as far distant as Northampton and Oxford, and, in each case, your Health Department contacts the Health Department in the district of the visiting itinerant vendor for a report on the establishment where the particular food is manufactured.

In regard to public houses the main faults were sub-standard sanitary accommodation or unsuitable condition of beer cellars. It will be observed there are almost as many public houses as provision stores in the district. Many of these licensed premises prepare and serve meals to the public which necessitates a look at the kitchen as well as the beer cellar. Licensees are asked to properly wash all drinking as well as eating utensils. With very rare exceptions bar wells or sinks with even a cold supply of water above are not to be found, whilst a constant available supply of hot water is an even greater rarity. The realisation of a mains water supply is the solution of such undesirable conditions.

The majority of the food premises in this district are rather old in structure but kept clean. Whatever the type or structure of a food premises it should at all times at least be kept clean, but how much easier it is to clean and maintain premises which are modern in structure. Broken walls and floors harbour dirt whereas sound walls and floors are easily cleansed.

A most important factor in food hygiene is the person who handles the food. This point has been stressed in a pamphlet which has been circularised to all food places in the district of this Council.

With a view to maintaining and improving the condition of the 133 food premises in the district, and the method of preparation and handling of food, many visits have been made during the year, details of which may be seen from the following Table :

	<i>No. in District</i>	<i>No. of Visits</i>
No. of Provision Shops	48	28
No. of Butchers' Shops	12	28
No. of Dining Rooms	5	1
No. of Public Houses or Inns	41	39
No. of Bakehouses	12	23
No. of Registered Cowkeepers	193	475
No. of Ice Cream Shops	4	5
No. of Fishmongers	4	5
No. of Greengrocers and Fruiterers	7	4

DETAILS OF REPAIRS OR IMPROVEMENTS TO FOOD PREMISES

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	60
Accumulation of manure removed	...	...	...	...	...	25
Impervious floor provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Additional ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dairy cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	28
Proper dairy provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Floors cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Additional lighting provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yard surfaces cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Proper facilities for sterilizing	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	1

Slaughterhouses.

Slaughterhouse cleansed and limewashed	—
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	—

Bakehouses.

Bakehouse cleansed and limewashed	20
Benches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	—

Food Preparing Premises, Shops, Stalls, Etc.

Premises cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Benches etc., cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Waste foodstuffs and refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Structural repairs carried out	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	—

Meat and Foods Inspection. The amount of food condemned during the year is set out in the following table.

Description	Weight		Disease or Condition
	lbs.	ozs.	
Tinned Veal Loaf	1		Contents mouldy.
Lunch Meat		12	Blown tin.
Beef Loaf	2	4	Blown tins.
Hake	1	1	Blown tin.
Salmon		8	Leaky tin.
Sardines	1		Leaky tins.
Cut Celery	2		Blown tins.
Beetroot	1		Leaky tin.
Peas	1	14	Blown tins, contents of one mouldy.
Beans	6	10½	Blown and leaky tins.
Tomatoes	1	14	Leaky tin.
Plums	2	12	Blown and leaky tins.
Grapefruit	16	8	Blown and leaky tins.
Marmalade	1	8	Damaged and leaky tin.
Soup	1		Blown tin.
Milk	6	5	Blown and leaky tins.
	48lbs.	0½oz.	

Food and Drugs Acts, 1938. There are 16 registered premises in the district which are affected by this Act, *viz.* :

12 Butchers' Premises.

4 Ice Cream Premises.

Milk Supply and Control. During the year a survey has been made of all cowsheds and dairies in the district where milk is produced for human consumption.

Each premises has been classified according (a) to the standard of methods appearing to be adopted therein by persons actually dealing with milk production, and (b) to its structural suitability for the purpose. Thus the classification " Good " indicates both methods and premises to be suitable ; " Fair " denotes that methods and premises could be improved and " Bad " refers to methods and/or premises considered as being unsuitable at the time of visiting for producing clean and safe milk. There were 37 or 19.4% premises considered unsuitable.

The absence of an adequate supply of water is handicapping a number of Cowkeepers and Dairymen whilst others are working under difficulties in old and unsuitable premises. To rectify either of these conditions is a costly undertaking which often the Tenant farmer or Landlord is loth to embark upon.

The following summary shows the classification of the Cowkeepers and premises visited and the position generally in regard to milk production in the district for 1948.

Number of Cowkeepers classified as " Good " producers	...	...	...	...	...	...	77 or 40.3%
Number of Cowkeepers classified as " Fair " producers	...	...	...	...	...	...	77 or 40.3%
Number of Cowkeepers classified as " Bad " producers							37 or 19.4%
Total number of Cowkeepers on Register in 1948	...						191
Total number producing Designated milk	...	...					55 or 28.8%
(a) " Tuberculin Tested "	...	...	...				24 or 12.6%
(b) " Accredited "	...	...	...	...			31 or 16.2%
Total number producing Non-Designated milk	...						136 or 71.2%
Total number of Retailers	...	...	...	...			42 or 22.0%
(a) " Tuberculin Tested "	...	...	...				5 or 2.6%
(b) " Accredited "	...	...	...	...			7 or 3.7%
(c) Non-Designated	...	...	...	...			30 or 15.7%
Total number of new Registrations	...	...					11
Total number of inspections made	...	...	...				475
Total number of milk samples taken	...	...					19

RESULTS OF DESIGNATED MILK SAMPLES (i.e., "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited") TAKEN IN THE BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT BY THE NORTHANTS. COUNTY COUNCIL DURING THE YEAR 1948.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Samples Taken</i>	<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>	
		<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Aston le Walls	26	24	2
Aynho	32	18	14
Boddington	29	24	5
Chacombe	12	10	2
Charlton	—	—	—
Chipping Warden	11	9	2
Croughton	11	10	1
Culworth	17	16	1
Edgcote	16	7	9
Evenley	23	16	7
Eydon	11	11	—
Farthinghoe	43	33	10
Greatworth... ..	96	77	19
Helmdon	24	21	3
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	12	5	7
Kings Sutton	92	70	22
Marston St. Lawrence	28	20	8
Middleton Cheney	10	10	—
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—
Radstone /... ..	36	29	7
Sulgrave	7	6	1
Syresham	41	25	16
Thenford	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	41	31	10
Warkworth... ..	—	—	—
Whitfield	8	8	—
TOTALS	626	480	146

Comparative results of sampling (methylene blue test) over past 9 years :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Good</i>		<i>Result Moderate</i>		<i>Bad</i>	
1940	66	25	40%	14	20%	27	40%
1941	73	40	55%	14	19%	19	26%
1942	54	31	55%	12	23%	11	22%
1943	53	34	64%	9	17%	10	19%
1944	53	37	70%	13	24%	3	5%
1945	46	15	34%	10	21%	21	45%
1946	31	24	77.5%	—	—	7	22.5%
1947	36	28	77.8%	4	11.1%	4	11.1%
1948	19	12	63.2%	3	15.8%	4	21.0%

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

A marked increase occurred in the number of infectious diseases notified—164 as against 68 in the previous year. This was mainly due to the increase in the number of cases of measles which was general throughout the country.

The increased prevalence of Measles is shown by 137 cases compared with 49 notified in the previous year.

There were 6 cases of Scarlet Fever as against 5 in 1947.

The case of Diphtheria was not confirmed.

The following table sets forth the nature of the various diseases and shows the distribution of the cases throughout the parishes in the district.

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(other than Tuberculosis)
IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES
during the year, 1948.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Erysipelas</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Polio-myelitis</i>	<i>Food Poisoning</i>	<i>Cerebro-Spin- al Meningitis</i>	<i>Ophthalmia Neonatorum</i>	TOTALS
Aston le Walls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aynho	1	—	—	—	15	5	—	—	—	—	21
Boddington	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Chacombe	1	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	8
Charlton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chipping Warden ...	3	—	—	—	27	—	—	—	—	—	30
Croughton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Culworth... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Edgcote	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Evenley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eydon	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Farthinghoe	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Greatworth	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Helmdon... ..	—	—	—	—	31	—	—	—	1	—	32
Hinton-in-the-Hedges ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kings Sutton	1	—	—	1	33	2	1	—	—	—	38
Marston St. Lawrence	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Middleton Cheney ...	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	5
Moreton Pinkney ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	4
Syresham	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Thenford... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville ...	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	1	—	1	9
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	1	2	2	137	12	1	1	1	1	164

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Over past 9 years
(Other than Tuberculosis)

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Total
Scarlet Fever	35	25	18	13	12	10	7	5	6	131
Diphtheria	3	11	7	7	2	1	—	—	1	32
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	9
Pneumonia	4	5	4	3	4	2	1	3	2	28
Erysipelas	3	—	3	2	1	1	—	—	2	12
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	8
Measles	245	120	10	104	6	116	13	49	137	800
Whooping Cough	12	50	6	4	54	12	2	8	12	160
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
Polio Encephalitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Polio Myelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	4
Catarrhal Jaundice	—	—	1	3	5	—	—	—	—	9
Malaria	—	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	6
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	3	3	—	1	—	—	7
Jaundice	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	4
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	—	8
Mumps	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Amoebiasis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	311	213	54	144	92	154	27	68	164	1227

PERIOD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES—1948.

A statement shewing the period distribution of the cases notified is given hereunder:

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTALS
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	6
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Measles	40	30	33	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	26	137
Whooping Cough	—	1	4	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	—	12
Polio Myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	44	32	37	6	1	1	5	—	1	—	9	28	164

Tuberculosis—All new cases of tuberculosis, respiratory or non-respiratory, are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health. Institutional care, when considered necessary, is arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health and County Tuberculosis Officer in the County Sanatoria.

The living conditions, etc., of persons subsequently discharged from these sanatoria are investigated by this Authority.

During the year 6 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 5 being of a respiratory nature and 1 non-respiratory. This shows a decrease of 6 as against a total of 12 cases which were notified in 1947.

The following table gives the incidence of new cases with their age distribution.

New Cases during 1948

<i>Age Periods Years</i>	<i>New Cases</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0 — 1	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	2	1	—	—
25 — 35	1	—	—	1
35 — 45	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	1	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	1	—	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

Age at 31:12:48 Year Born	Under 1 1948	1 1947	2 1946	3 1945	4 1944	5-9 1939-43	10-14 1934-38	Total under 5	Total 5-15	Total under 15
Number Immunised	4	96	111	96	130	562	669	437	1231	1668
Estimated Mid-Year Population	864					1279				
Percentage Immunised	51%					96%				

MISCELLANEOUS.

Police Court Proceedings.

1. Court where heard. 2. Date of hearing. 3. Parties concerned.	Offence.	Result of Legal Action.
1. Middleton Cheney Petty Sessions. 2. 23/6/48. 3. Brackley R.D.C. v. Herbert Stowe, Aston-le-Walls.	Failure to abate a nuisance under Public Health Act, 1936.	Order made for abate- ment of nuisance with- in 14 days. Defendant to pay £3/9/6 costs.

